



## Asparagopsis armata

### Harpoon Weed

#### General

- Gametophyte plants occur from June or July
- Arising from bare, creeping stolons; irregularly branched
- Harpoon-like hooks and bushy habit

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - Reported as forming monospecific coverages, dominating many algal assemblages
  - Known to cover 100% of upper infralittoral in winter in the NW Mediterranean (Marseilles area)
  - Lack of predators, rapid growth rate - also an opportunist
2. Invasive potential
  - Lethal temperatures and temperature required for reproduction are likely to restrict distribution.
  - The hooked branches are likely to spread by attachment onto floating objects (Farnham 1980)
  - Lack of predators and rapid growth rate facilitate spread
3. Geographic extent
  - Regionally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
  - No controls in marine environment



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Australia, New Zealand
2. Introduced: California
3. Habitat
  - Marine, aquaculture
  - Lethal temperatures and temperature required for reproduction are likely to restrict distribution

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast &/or Fouling
2. Natural spread - water currents
3. Aquaculture and mariculture activities
4. Hull/Surface fouling

#### Non native locations

1. 59- S. California Bight

#### Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=144438>
4. [http://www.algaebase.org/search/species/detail/?species\\_id=6](http://www.algaebase.org/search/species/detail/?species_id=6)